

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 136737
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPM:JKORNBLUM
APPROVED BY: EUR/RPM:WSHINN, JR
-----122448 200140Z /63
O 160046Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136737

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION UP-GRADED TO CONFIDENTIAL
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FOR USDEL CSCE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 136737 SENT ACTION MOSCOW INFO LENINGRAD
13 JUN 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CSCE, CASC, UR, US (TOTH, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT'S PROTEST ABOUT TOTH DETENTION

REF: MOSCOW 8375

1. EUR/SOV ACTING DIRECTOR BARRY CALLED IN SOVIET EMBASSY
FIRST SECRETARY TREPYKHALIN AFTERNOON JUNE 13 (NEITHER
SOVIET MINISTER COUNSELOR WAS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE) AND
PROTESTED TOTH DETENTION. BARRY ALSO RAISED VISA CASE OF
TOTH'S REPLACEMENT DAN FISHER, WHO DID NOT RECEIVE HIS
SOVIET VISA AS EXPECTED AND WAS UNABLE TO DEPART FOR USSR
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JUNE 13 AS PLANNED.

2. BARRY TOLD TREPYKHALIN THAT DEPARTMENT VIEWS JUNE 11 DE-
TENTION OF TOTH WITH SERIOUS CONCERN. IN LIGHT OF VARIOUS
REPORTS IN THE SOVIET PRESS OF FALSE CHARGES THAT AMERICAN
CORRESPONDENTS ARE ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE AND ILLEGAL ACTIVI-
TIES, DEPT SEES TOTH INCIDENT AS ESCALATION OF CAMPAIGN OF
HARASSING AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS AND INHIBITING THEIR
LEGITIMATE CONTACTS WITH SOVIET CITIZENS.

3. BARRY ALLUDED TO CSCE UNDERTAKINGS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS, AND NOTED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES SEEM TO BE MAKING WORKING CONDITIONS WORSE FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW.

4. BARRY NOTED THAT EMBASSY HAD ATTEMPTED TO RAISE TOTH CASE WITH MFA JUNE 13 BUT THAT NO ONE HAD BEEN AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE EMBOFFS. BARRY EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT MFA'S USA DIVISION WITH ITS LARGE STAFF COULD NOT FIND TIME TO RECEIVE US DEMARCHE WHICH HE CONTRASTED WITH SOVIET ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT WHEN SOVEMBASSY HAD MATTERS TO DISCUSS.

5. TREPYKHALIN SAID HE COULD NOT ACCEPT BARRY'S CHARACTERIZATION OF TOTH INCIDENT, BUT IN ABSENCE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATTER FROM MOSCOW, HE DID NOT INTEND TO SAY ANYTHING IN RESPONSE. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT BARRY'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AND TO MOSCOW.

6. BARRY URGED THAT SOVIET EMBASSY LOOK INTO HESITATION IN ISSUANCE OF VISA TO FISHER AND ISSUE VISA PROMPTLY. ACCORDING TO LOS ANGELES TIMES WASHINGTON OFFICE FISHER VISA APPLICATION WAS DELIVERED TO SOVIET EMBASSY A MONTH AGO. VANCE

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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APPROVED BY: EUR/RPM:WSHINN, JR

-----160145Z 085142 /70

O 160046Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 136737

FOR USDEL CSCE

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Concepts: DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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TAGS: CASC, SCUL, UR, US, CSCE, (TOTH, ROBERT)
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
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